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CENTER SCENE

The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter — *December 1988*

NEW EMPLOYEES

Marilyn Zigler, Sandy Stevens, Graham Miller, Kathy Tobler, Jim Pflucker, and Denise Sylvester

You used to know us as the Division of Computer Applications (D220), but we are now the Branch of Computer Applications (SC-342). We are still located in the far west end of Building 50, and we'd like to introduce some "new" employees to you.

Kathryn Tober has worked for BLM since 1986. When her husband accepted a position at the Denver Mint in March of this year, Kathy transferred from the Canon City district into a temporary position in the Branch of Procurement at the Service Center, and in May was selected as an Editorial Assistant for SC-342. She worked for the government in San Francisco and Georgia prior to coming aboard with BLM. Kathy was recently selected as an alternate EEO Counselor at the Service Center.

James Pflucker is a recent addition to the Administrative Systems Section; he is a Computer Programmer/Analyst. Jim previously worked with MSHA for four years as a programmer/analyst.

Sandra Stevens joined the Financial Management Systems Section as a Computer Programmer/Analyst after working two years for SASC on a contract with the Bureau of Reclamation. A graduate of Metro State College in 1986 with a degree in Urban Studies, she lived in Toronto eight years prior to moving to Denver.

Graham Miller is another new Computer Programmer/Analyst in the Financial Management Systems Section. He came here from private industry, where he worked on DOD contracts for several defense contractors in the Washington, D.C., area and Martin Marietta in Denver. Prior to that, Graham worked for sixteen years as a Computer specialist for the Defense Communications Agency in Washington, D.C.

Marilyn Zigler worked as a Computer Specialist for the Office of Surface Mining for three years before coming to work in the Land Records Systems Section as a Computer Programmer/Analyst. Prior to OSM, she worked in the ADP section of MSHA for seven years. Marilyn is a Colorado native and has a nine-year-old son.

Denise Sylvester joined the Land Records Systems Section as a computer assistant. She previously worked for the Bureau of Standards in Boulder and has a degree in Computer Science from the University of Colorado in Boulder.

GIVE 'EM A BREAK!!

Waterfowl are doing very well in the Denver metropolitan area. They have lots of open space and parks and face few natural predators. They also have plenty of natural food and, unfortunately, plenty of unnatural food provided by people.

Ducks and geese are designed by nature to migrate long distances. In the late fall, they fly to their wintering areas, and in the spring they fly to their nesting areas. Many mysteries and unknowns surround the topic of bird migration, but one thing is clear: migration by waterfowl has an important ecological role in both their nesting and wintering behavior.

The Denver metro area is seeing an increase in the number of Canada geese and ducks. They are attracted to large areas of bluegrass such as golf courses, parks, and the Denver Federal Center. Many of these geese and ducks are hanging around the metro area longer than they naturally would or should.

Why? They don't need to go anywhere else because all of their needs are being met here. Unfortunately, the cause is often an artificial, unnatural one. People with good intentions are altering the natural behavior of ducks and geese by feeding them.

Whenever we tamper with nature, we pay a price. Canada geese graze the grass on golf courses and parks, leaving large amounts of droppings behind. This is a bothersome problem for golfers, picnickers, and anyone who wants to enjoy walking in these areas. In the water, the droppings of geese and ducks fertilize ponds and lakes and encourage excessive blooming of aquatic plants, which depletes oxygen and makes it hard for fish to survive.

In the long run, the birds suffer also. Feeding waterfowl, especially in the winter, concentrates the birds into small areas. This creates stress, and in turn, decreases their ability to ward off diseases. There is a severe outbreak of avian cholera in the states north of Colorado, and the concentration of ducks and geese in the metro area is ripe for an outbreak of this disease, which can kill thousands of birds in a matter of hours. Another problem is that some people feed dry, moldy bread to these birds. This can cause Aspergillosis, a disease which can kill many birds in a concentrated situation.

REMINDER

SC Dinner Dance at Writer's Manor, Dec. 9, 1988
Call Angie Sether for Information.

THIRTY YEAR PINS

In 1988 three SC employees completed 30 years of government service. In recognition of this milestone each received a 30-year pin. (No gold watches for government work.) The proud recipients were John Greene, David Nelson, and Gloria Smith.

John Greene

John Greene has the unique distinction of having dedicated his entire civilian career to BLM. His only other government job was a 33 month stint in the Army during which he was stationed in the Aleutian Islands.

He started his BLM career in the Nevada State Office as a GS-2 clerk typist. At that time, he said, a GS-2 earned $2,790 a year. He transferred to Denver and has been at the Service Center since the day it was formed. He has served under all the SC Directors, beginning with Lowell Puckett in 1963.

His hobbies include "anything outdoors". He enjoys running, hunting, and fishing. His wife Patricia is a registered nurse. They have two children, Scott and Kathy. Scott is a veterinarian and Kathy is a teacher. John is currently a Cartographer in the Branch of Cartography, Division of Technical Services.

David Nelson

David Nelson's government career began at the end of the Korean conflict. He was in the Corps of Engineers at Fort Bragg, North Carolina for the Forest Service.

He attended the College of Forestry in Syracruse, New York, and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry and a Masters in Forest Economics. During the summers he worked

In 1960 Dave started with BLM. He worked in the Portland Service Center on the Geographic Information Planning System and on the strategic plan for information management. In 1978 he came to Denver and worked on a Trial Project which evolved into the Automated Land and Mineral Record System. Dave is a Natural Resource Specialist in the Branch of Modernization, Division of Modernization.

In his spare time Dave enjoys photography, particularly photographic genealogy. He and his wife Trudi, a librarian, would like to build a timber house sometime in the future. They have two sons. David, who works at the Denver Post, and Kevin, a senior at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Gloria Smith

Dave says he has "no plans for retirement."

Gloria Smith started as a GS-3 steno with the Veterans Administration immediately after high school. She has worked for the General Services Administration and the Geological Survey; she came to BLM in 1981. Although she has worked for several agencies, Gloria's entire career has been at the Denver Federal Center. She is currently a Property Management Specialist in the Branch of Real Property, Division of Administrative Services. She says "with a little luck I'll retire in '93."

Gloria's hobbies include "bargain shopping", gardening, and riding a dirt bike.

She has two children attending Metropolitan State College, a son Kirk who is a senior and a daughter Tracy, a junior. Gloria decided that after thirty years of dedicated government service she deserved a gold watch. So she bought herself one.

Congratulations to all three for a collective 90 years of working for Uncle Sam.

TRAIL BOSS

Dave Kathman

Dave Kathman, Branch of Resources, received the 21st Annual Trail Boss Award from the Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management. He has been a Society member for 31 years.

Dave has spent his entire career working in various aspects of range management. He began his Federal career at the BLM Craig DO, followed by assignments at the Socorro DO, the Colorado State Office, and the Service Center.

Dave is currently designing and implementing two computerized inventory and tracking systems, the Rangeland Improvement Project System (RIPS) and the Grazing Authorization and Billing System (GABS).

He has been involved in the construction and maintenance of all types of structural range improvements as well as the administration and management of diverse range resources in a semi-desert environment. Some major accomplishments include the administration of a statewide rangeland rehabilitation program on land disturbed by energy development and leadership of a statewide grazing management program in connection with the wild horse and burro program.

Congratulations, Dave!

SANTA PROJECT

Today is the kickoff for the SC annual Santa Project. We anticipate providing Christmas gifts and food for 5 or 6 families this year. Boxes for gifts are located in Office Services, Building 50, and on the 5th floor of the 390 Union Building. Lists of needed items are posted at the collection sites.

Over the past 6 years the Santa Project has brought gifts and food to 109 needy people.